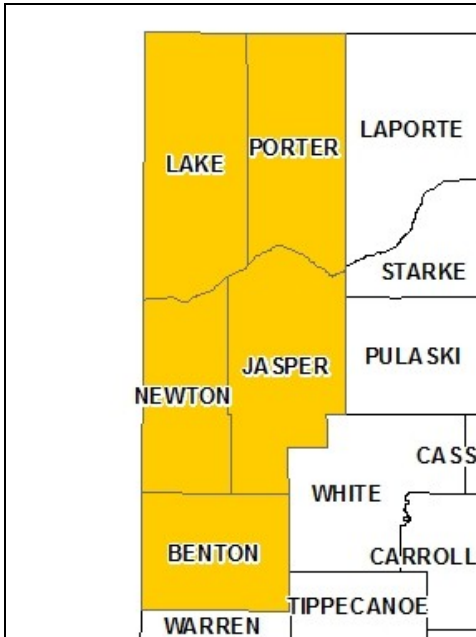




2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant Program

Indiana State Department of Agriculture
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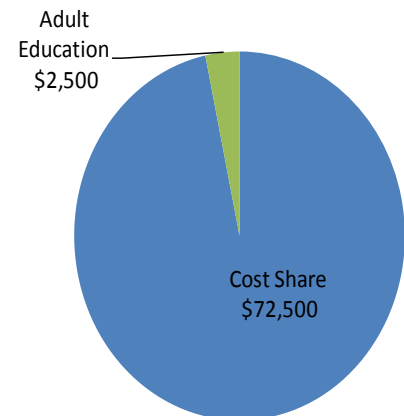


LEAD DISTRICT: NEWTON
COLLABORATING DISTRICTS: BENTON, JASPER, LAKE, PORTER
PROJECT NAME: COVER CROP COST SHARE AND DATA COLLECTION: IMPROVING AND PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN NW INDIANA
PROJECT DATES: 5/1/2015-4/30/2017
PROJECT AMOUNT: \$75,000

Purpose: Study nutrient capturing with cover crops

The districts will continue a cover crop cost share program that results in cover crop adoption, which will address soil quality- organic matter loss, and reduce sediment and nutrient loading to the Kankakee & Iroquois Rivers. Popular demand and new farmer enrollment make continuing this program critical to continued cover cropping success. Key to the program will be the standardized and central collection of cover crop data and follow up surveys in each cover crop year and at field and classroom events. Collecting this data will provide valuable feedback to farmers about the benefits of cover crops on his/her farm and provide valuable data to Indiana Conservation Partnership agencies, and show trends across the watershed about cover crop use, which will maximize grant dollars.

PARTNERS FOR THE PROJECT INCLUDE:
CCSI AND NRCS,



The SWCDs will conduct follow up surveys annually to show trends across the watershed on cover crop use.

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

Furthermore, the CWI Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.

During state fiscal year 2015, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 14 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,020,900. Grant funds can be used for Cost Share Incentives, Technical Assistance, and Adult Education (maximum of \$1,000 per year).